

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. By this response, claim 7 is amended to address the language noted by the Examiner, such that the claims are believed to fully comply with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. The Examiner's careful review is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-6, 10-14, 16-18, 21, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Randolph U.S. Patent 5,437,235. Claims 10, 12, 15 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being as being anticipated by Leday U.S. Patent 5,927,213.

Claims 7-9, 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, with an indication that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this response, claims 7 and 19 are amended to independent form, in each case incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the Examiner's indication, it is thus believed that claims 7 and 19 are in allowable form, along with respective dependent claims 8, 9 and 20.

The remaining claims are amended in a manner believed to patentably define over the references.

Claim 1 is amended to call for a lectern comprising a base adapted for engagement with a supporting surface, and a single central column assembly defining a lower end attached to the base and an upper end spaced above the lower end. Claim 1 further calls for a support member attached to the upper end of the single central column assembly, and is amended to state that the single central column assembly is operable to position the support member above the supporting surface. Claim 1 further calls for a height adjustment arrangement associated with the single central column assembly. The height

adjustment arrangement is defined as being operable to adjust the height of the single central column assembly, wherein adjustment in the height of the single central column assembly is operable to adjust the vertical position of the support member relative to the supporting surface.

In the Randolph reference, the worksurface is spaced above the supporting surface, i.e. the floor, by means of a pair of spaced apart legs, such as shown at 16. This construction is more in the nature of a conventional desk or table as opposed to a lectern, which is the subject matter of the present invention. The claim amendments emphasize this distinction over the cited prior art.

The Randolph reference does not show or suggest a lectern with a single central support assembly as claimed. Rather, Randolph specifically contemplates a desk or table having a worksurface that is supported by a pair of spaced-apart legs. Claim 1 is thus believed to patentably define over the Randolph reference. A review of the remaining references of record similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed subject matter, and accordingly claim 1 is believed allowable.

Claims 2-6, 25 and 26 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 16 has been amended along the same lines as amended claim 1. For the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, it is thus believed that claim 16 also patentably defines over the references, and is allowable. Claims 17, 18 and 21-24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 16, and are also believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 10 has been amended to state that the support member, which is attached to the upper end of the column, defines a front and a rear and includes an upwardly facing recess adapted to receive an upwardly facing computer monitor. Claim 10 also states that the support member further defines an interior and includes a rearwardly facing opening that provides access to the interior. The support member is defined as including an extendible

and retractable keyboard support adapted to support a computer keyboard. The keyboard support is defined as being movable between a storage position in which the keyboard is positioned within the interior of the support member, and an extended position in which the computer keyboard is moved outwardly through the rearwardly facing opening and is positioned rearwardly of the interior of the support member.

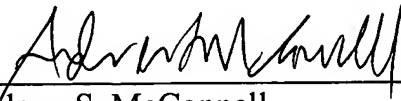
The Leday reference discloses a table arrangement which includes an extendible and retractable keyboard. However, the Leday reference contains no showing or suggestion of a support member that includes an upwardly facing recess to receive an upwardly facing computer monitor, as claimed. There is nothing in Leday to show or suggest an upwardly facing recess in a support member for receiving an upwardly facing computer monitor, in combination with a rearwardly open recess with a movable keyboard support, as claimed. Accordingly, claim 10 is believed to patentably define over the Leday reference. A review of the remaining references of record similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed subject matter, and accordingly claim 10 is believed allowable.

Claims 11-14 depend directly or indirectly from claim 10, and are believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 1-14 and 16-26, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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